

604916

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bolivia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1A
SUBJECT	Communist Activity in the Oruro Area	DATE DISTR.	14 June 1954	
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1. Since his recent return from a trip behind the Iron Curtain, Dr. Julio GARRET, hospital director and member of the faculty of the University of Oruro, has assumed behind-the-scenes direction of the activities of the Communist Party of Bolivia (PCB) in Oruro. It is believed that GARRET organized the recently increased Communist activity in the mining centers of the Oruro area and that he was also principally responsible for the Party's action against Dr. Hernan QUIROGA, a Communist leader in Oruro who was recently expelled from the PCB for disciplinary reasons. GARRET's principal assistant and liaison with the publicly known leaders of the PCB is one Dr. Saul PANTOJA.
2. Recently the Communists of Oruro have also increased their use of the Radio Universidad for propaganda purposes. This station, which is under the direction of Eduardo SALINAS, a Communist, has for the past several weeks followed the Communist line at every opportunity and has featured speakers who openly use such terms as "we Communists." On one occasion, during the first week of May, a poem entitled Cristo Comunista was recited during a Radio Universidad program. The poem identified Christ himself with Communism, made derogatory references to the Catholic Church and the Pope, and in general extolled Communism. Despite such pro-Communist broadcasts, Radio Universidad continues to be the most popular radio station in the Oruro area because of the variety and quality of its other programs. The University of Oruro press is also still being used by the Communists, and its most recent publication, Revista Economica, is devoted for the most part to defending Guatemala's position and strongly attacking the U.S. in several instances.
3. One ALANDIA (fnu), a leading Communist and labor leader in Oruro, is said to have departed from Bolivia on 27 April 1954 for Mexico City on a confidential mission for the PCB. ALANDIA is employed in the Oruro branch of the Banco Central of Bolivia.

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4. The following Bolivians are Communist agitators at the mining center of Colquiri.

Julio ILLANES
Walter MORALES
Julian AGUILAR
Moises GUZMAN
Pablo MORENO
Lacio MERCADO
Hector ARIAS
Wilfredo CLAROS

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